

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00083 151102Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS MUSCAT 0083

ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, MU
SUBJ: ELECTRICAL ENERGY SYSTEMS TRADE MISSION

REF: (A) USDOC 699, (B) USDOC 24801

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ON SALIM MAKKI, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND INFORMED HIM OF THE PROBLEM OF OBTAINING VISAS FROM THE OMANI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. MAKKI EXPRESSED SURPRISE, SINCE HE SAID THE STANDING INSTRUCTION TO ALL OMANI EMBASSIES IS TO ISSUE VISAS TO BUSINESSMEN WHO PRODUCE LETTERS FROM THEIR COMPANIES REQUESTING SUCH VISAS. HE BELIEVES THAT THE ABSENCE OF THEIR AMBASSADOR, WHO IS PRESENTLY IN OMAN, MAY HAVE CAUSED THE CONFUSION. MAKKI PROMISED TO CABLE THE OMANI EMBASSY IMMEDIATELY AND INSTRUCT THEM TO ISSUE THE VISAS.

2. MAKKI SUGGESTED THAT VISA APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RESUBMITTED O/A TUESDAY, JAN. 17. A LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE EXPLAINING THAT THE MISSION IS SPONSORED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT MIGHT ALSO HELP OBTAIN THE VISAS, AND WE RECOMMEND THAT THIS BE DONE.

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3. AT MAKKI'S REQUEST WE LEFT A LIST OF THE COMPANIES AND NAMES OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WHICH WE COMPILED FROM PREVIOUS CABLES. OUR COUNT SHOWS 15 COMPANY REPS PLUS THE MISSION DIRECTOR. EMBASSY PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THAT IT HAD RESERVED 15 DOUBLE ROOMS PLUS A SUITE FOR THE MISSION DIRECTOR. HOWEVER, REF B STATES THAT AMERICAN EXPRESS IS TRYING TO CONTACT GULF HOTEL TO MAKE RESERVATIONS. EMBASSY HAS CHANGED

RESERVATIONS TO SINGLES (AS PER REF B), BUT IS PUZZLED ABOUT FOR WHOM AMERICAN EXPRESS IS RESERVING ROOMS. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE A CONFIRMED LIST OF TRADE MISSION PARTICIPANTS IN WHOSE NAMES IT SHOULD RESERVE ROOMS IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE DOUBLE BOOKING.

SIZER

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